

Message Text

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AGENCY FOR IOP/M; IAA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: INDIAN OCEAN DEMILITARIZATION

1. "WE CAN BE MORE OR LESS CERTAIN...THAT THE DISCUSSIONS CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE IN WASHINGTON (BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE U.S.S.R.) CONSTITUTE A FIRST STEP TOWARD THE DEMILITARIZATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN", ASSISTANT EDITOR OWANDJINKOYE LOKOLAKONGE WRITES IN THURSDAY'S EDITION OF THE ZAIRIAN NEWSPAPER "ELIMA".

2. THE NATIONS BORDERING THE INDIAN OCEAN HAVE BEEN TRYING FOR SIX YEARS TO CONVOKE A SUMMIT CONFERENCE TO GIVE THE 1971 U.N. DECLARATION ON THE INDIAN OCEAN A MORE FORCEFUL CHARACTER, CITIZEN OWANDJINKOYE EXPLAINS, BUT THE TROUBLES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA HAVE APPARENTLY PREVENTED THIS FROM HAPPENING. "BUT IF SUCH A SUMMIT TAKES PLACE", THE WRITER CONTINUES, "IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE QUESTION OF THE COMMUNIST INFLUENCE AND THE MEANS TO STEM IT WILL COME UP AGAIN...(AND) COMPLICATE THINGS A LITTLE".

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3. "CONCERNING THE RED SEA", THE EDITORIAL EXPLAINS BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, "WE KNOW THAT EGYPT, SAUDIA ARABIA, SUDAN AND NORTH YEMEN AT LEAST ARE MANIFESTLY OPPOSED TO COMMUNISM...BECAUSE OF THEIR IMPORTANCE...THESE COUNTRIES WILL DOUBTLESS DOMINATE THE WORKS OF SUCH A MEETING".

4. "BUT...THINGS DO NOT APPEAR DISCORDANT BETWEEN
MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON REGARDING THE PRINCIPLE (OF
DEMILITARIZATION). BEYOND ANY QUESTION", THE ASSISTANT
EDITOR CONCLUDES, "SINCE PRESIDENT CARTER'S ENTRANCE
INTO THE WHITE HOUSE HE HAS NOT MISSED A CHANCE
TO DECLARE THAT HE SINCERELY HOPES FOR THIS DEMILITARIZATION,
AND SUCH COULD EQUALLY BE CONSIDERED THE HOPE OF THE
HEADS OF THE KREMLIN". END ITEM.
DUMAS

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